

SERVICE AVIATION



Royal Air Force and Official Announcements : Fleet Air Arm News : Military Aviation Abroad

Honorary Physician to the King

THE King has approved of the appointment of Air Commodore Harold Edward Whittingham, C.B.E., M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.P.(E.), F.R.F.P.S.(G.), M.R.C.P.(Lon.), D.P.H., D.T.M. and H., as an honorary physician to His Majesty with effect from March 1, vice Air Vice-Marshal Sir Alfred W. Iredell, K.B.E., C.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., who vacated the appointment on his retirement from the Royal Air Force on that date.

Air Comdr. H. E. Whittingham, born in 1887, was commissioned in the Royal Army Medical Corps in January, 1916, as a temporary Lieutenant. In October, 1918, he was transferred to the Royal Air Force (Medical Branch) as an acting Major, and in August the following year was granted a permanent commission with the rank of Squadron Leader. During the period 1921 to 1923 Air Comdr. Whittingham carried out several researches in Malta in connection with the origin and prevention of sandfly fever, and in 1924 received the Air Council's high appreciation of his valuable services rendered in that connection. From January, 1925, to July, 1935, he commanded the R.A.F. Pathological Laboratory, Halton. In recent years he has been in command at the R.A.F. Central Medical Establishment, and has acted as Consultant in Hygiene, Pathology and Tropical Medicine. Air Comdr. Whittingham was awarded the C.B.E. (Military Division) in the Birthday Honours List, 1930. He was promoted to Wing Commander in 1923, to Group Captain in 1932, and to his present rank in 1936.

Acquisition of Sites for Royal Air Force

THE Secretary of State for Air has appointed Professor L. P. Abercrombie, M.A., F.R.I.B.A., to act as Consultant in connection with the acquisition of sites required on account of the expansion of the Royal Air Force. Professor Abercrombie is Professor of Town Planning, Bartlett School of Architecture, University College, London, and is Consultant Architect to the Department of Health for Scotland.

The selection of sites for Royal Air Force purposes is in varying degrees governed by strategic and other Service considerations. Within the limitations thus imposed, it has consistently been the policy at the Air Ministry to take into account the many and varied considerations affecting the life of the community, both local and national. The appointment of Professor Abercrombie is designed to ensure that the best possible advice is readily available at all stages in connection with the acquisition of a site.

Aden Protectorate

MECHANISATION is dealing heavy blows to stock-breeders in many parts of the world, and its effects have also been felt in the somewhat primitive area of the Aden Protectorate. The camel owners and breeders there have seen their livelihood threatened by motor transport, and their indignation resulted in a series of raids last year on motor caravans. Possibly the British authorities are connected in the minds of the tribesmen with this march of progress; or perhaps a general spirit of lawlessness is bound to end in anti-British outbreaks. At any rate the movement culminated in an attack on a political officer of the Subeihi tribe.

Most of the tribes are nominally under the suzerainty of more important local chiefs, usually holding the title of Sultan or Amir, and it is our policy to charge these Sultans with the maintenance of order in their territories. The Sultan of Lahej was accordingly asked to punish the culprits. He maintains a body of trained troops, and he despatched a column of them into Subeihi territory. By an excellent piece of co-ordination the whole of No. 8 (Bomber) Squadron arrived over the same spot at the same time. As a result all but one small village of the Subeihi submitted and this village was subjected to air action. This means that a warning was given and then the aircraft kept the villagers out of their village until they submitted, sometimes bombing the empty houses of the ringleaders. The result in this case, as in most cases of the same sort, was most satisfactory.



FIGHTING STOCK : Tigger, mascot of No. 111 (Fighter) Squadron, Northolt, has evidently ceased to be impressed by the formidable "300-plus" Hawker Hurricanes.

Not long after another tribe, the Quteibi, damaged a landing ground and threatened to fire on an aircraft which had forced-landed there. Loyal tribesmen drove the worst culprits out of their district, but one section remained recalcitrant, until a raid was made by the whole of No. 8 (Bomber) Squadron. By a piece of luck a salvo of bombs fell just outside a cave in which some of the chief offenders were hiding. They thought that their refuge had been discovered, and made complete submission, accepting the Government's terms and agreeing to keep the peace in future.

The Esher Trophy

THE Esher Trophy, awarded annually after an efficiency competition between squadrons of the Auxiliary Air Force, has been won for the third time by No. 604 (County of Middlesex) (Fighter) Squadron. The competition this year was between the fighter units of the A.A.F., of which there are now five, and the runner-up was No. 607 (County of Durham) (F.) Squadron. Best congratulations to Sqn. Ldr. C. P. Gabriel, the C.O. of No. 604, and his officers and men.

Award for "Exceptional Courage"

THE King has been graciously pleased to approve of the award of the Air Force Medal to Corporal T. E. Barnes "in recognition of exceptional courage and devotion to duty displayed on the occasion of the forced landing of an aircraft near Hinckley on December 3, 1937."

Staff College, Quetta

SQN. LDR. E. L. S. WARD has completed satisfactorily a course at the Staff College, Quetta, which terminated in December, 1937, and is entitled to the symbol "q.s." against his name in the Air Force List.

Aircraft Carriers

IN addition to the five aircraft carriers now under construction the Admiralty has decided to order a sixth carrier next year. The five now building are *Ark Royal*, which was launched on April 13, 1937, and is expected to be completed during the coming summer; *Illustrious* and *Victorious*, being constructed by Vickers-Armstrongs at Barrow-in-Furness and *High Walker* respectively, which were laid down in the spring of 1937; *Formidable*, laid down in March, 1937, by Harland and Wolff at Belfast, and *Indomitable*, laid down at Barrow in July, 1937, by Vickers-Armstrongs.

The Navy Estimates just presented to Parliament provide for a totally new type of vessel, a repair and supply ship for the Fleet Air Arm, the design of which has not yet been decided. Such a vessel should certainly be of great service to the Fleet and add to the efficiency of the carriers.